Amendments to the drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include changes to FIGS. 8-10. These sheets which include FIGS. 8-10, replace the original sheets which include FIGS. 8-10. In all figures, the phrase "PRIOR ART" has been added.

Attachments: 3 Replacement Sheets

3 Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to figures 8-10 because they are not designated as "PRIOR ART". Applicant has amended the drawings to include the phrase "PRIOR ART" in Figures 8-10 to overcome the Examiner's objection.
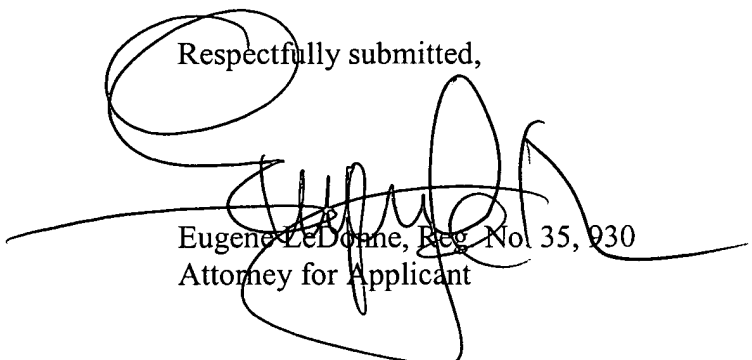
The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yumita (US Patent No. 6559553). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant submits that the Yumita reference is not a valid 102(e) prior art reference because the effective filing date of the present application is a convention priority date of February 9, 2001 which is earlier than the earliest U.S. filing date of the Yumita reference which is September 6, 2001.

As required under M.P.E.P. Section 201.15, Applicant hereby submits a certified translation of the corresponding Japanese priority application number 2001-033204 together with a translator's statement that the translation of the certified copy is accurate as well as the certified copy of the Japanese application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the Yumita reference as prior art.

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its earlier allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is urged to contact him at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene LeDonne, Reg. No. 35, 930
Attorney for Applicant

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Tel. (212) 521-5400

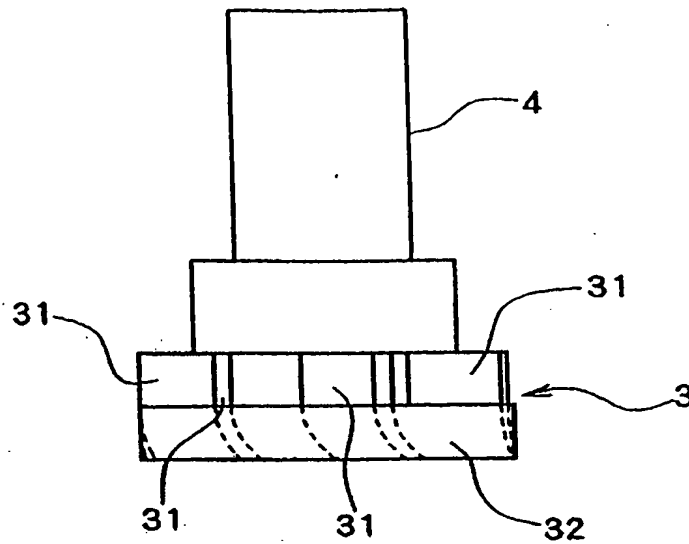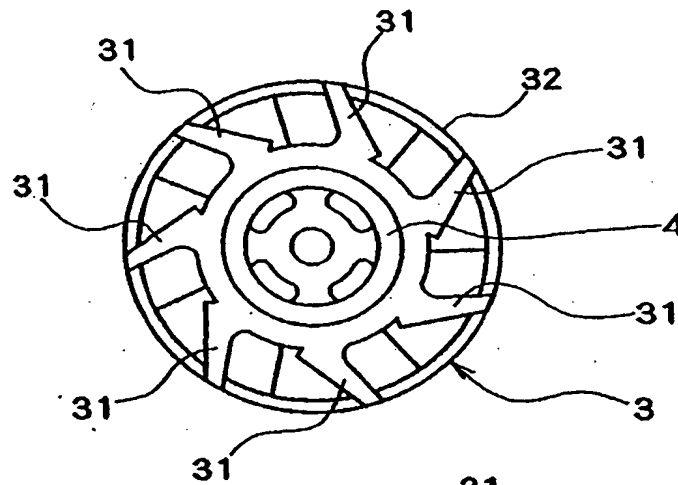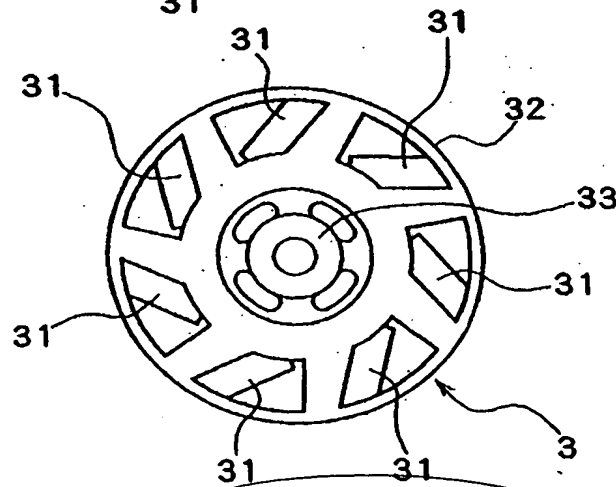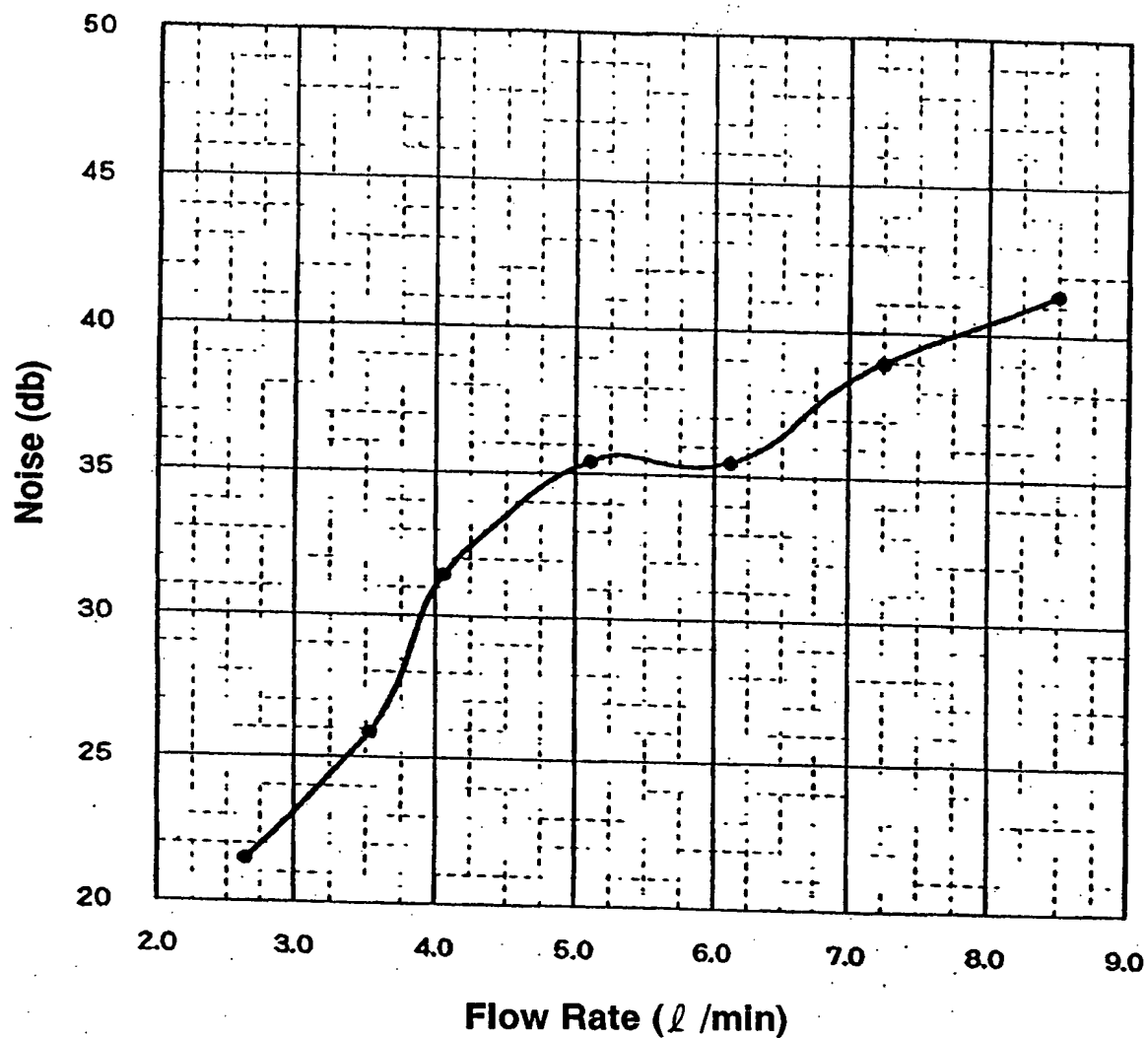Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig. 8(A)

4

31   31

3

31   31   32

Fig. 8(B)

31   31   32

31   31

4

31

31   3

31

Fig. 8(C)

31   31

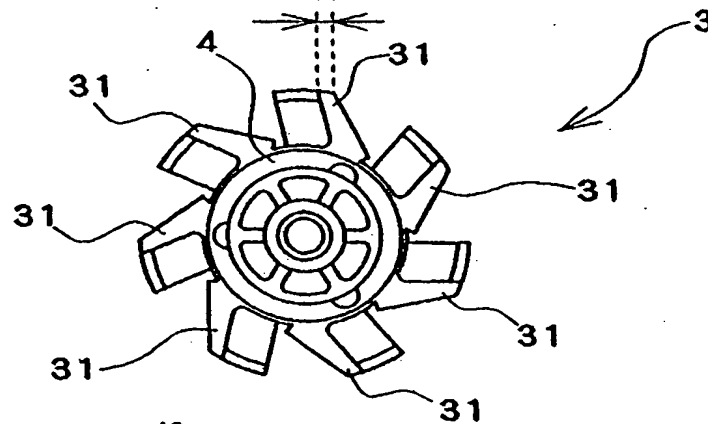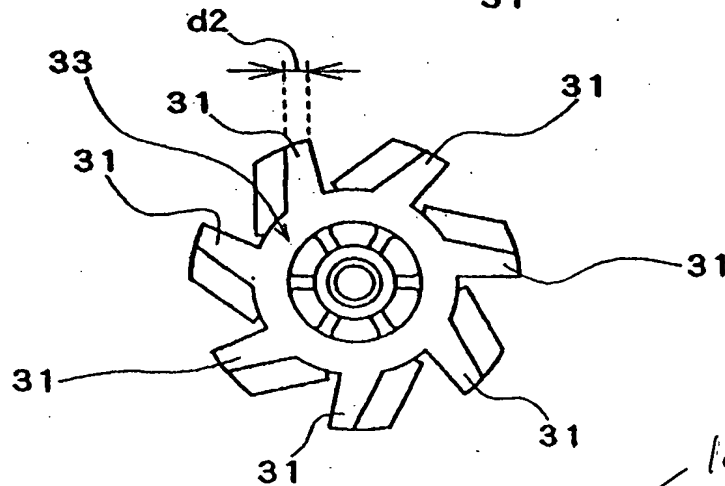31   32

33

31

31

31   3

31   31

label added

PRIOR ART

Fig. 9

PRIOR ART

label added

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Fig. 10(A)

4

31   31   3

31   31

d1

Fig. 10(B)

31   4   31

31   3

31   31

31   31

d2

33

31   31

Fig. 10(C)

31

31

31

31   31

label added

PRIOR ART